

MEETING NOTES

GOVERNOR'S FOREST HEALTH ADVISORY AND OVERSIGHT COUNCILS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2005, 1:00P

COUNTY SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA DEPT OF COMMERCE
1905 WEST WASHINGTON #100, PHOENIX, AZ 85009, 602-252-5521

- 1) Call to order Taylor McKinnon
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Subcommittee Updates

a. Mapping and Assessment / Arizona FIREMAP (<http://www.azfiremap.org/azfiremap/>)

Barron Orr reported on behalf of the Arizona F.I.R.E. M.A.P. Team that online application has been receiving considerable use. The website is well secured and the team continues working toward populating the application. Barron reported that the FIREMAP project was one of a handful of mapping, assessment and data management tools discussed in the context of information management needs in New Mexico. FIREMAP project was recognized at that meeting as the only "one stop shopping" online data management system that can spatially track, describe, and prioritize fuels reduction projects. Barron reported that the project received two grants recently, both from U of A Cooperative Extension. The first is provide computer mapping training and assistance to at-risk communities. The second addresses annual wildfire hazard and mobilization issues. An advisory board consisting of FIREMAP project members and U of A cooperative extension was formed to oversee grant

b. Education Subcommittee

Mike Neal reported on several efforts of the Education Subcommittee over the past months, including community FIREWISE outreach, brochure development and dissemination, public service announcements, and other activities that have been reported in past meeting minutes. Mike noted that a priority for one of both of the Councils should be to develop priority tasks to guide the subcommittee's work in the coming year. All agreed that doing so would be a priority in an upcoming meeting. Jack Metzger asked if the subcommittee or the Councils had ever discussed the relationships between exotic plants, fire, and management in desert ecosystems. In light of this year's desert fires, many of which were believed to be perpetuated by exotic plants and grasses, it was agreed that this may be a topic worthy further examination in a subcommittee context. It was agreed that Jack would write a brief scoping document for the next meeting.

c. Landscape Context Subcommittee

Taylor McKinnon reported on behalf of Don Falk that the subcommittee report was in its final stages of review and would be presented, discussed and hopefully approved at the Oct FHAC meeting.

d. Climate Variability and Change and Impacts Subcommittee

Tom Swetnam reported that the group is making progress toward assembling information that will go into a report to the Governor and policymakers detailing what's known about past, current, and potential future impacts of climate variability and change on forests and woodlands. There are 20 researchers involved in this effort and the next meeting will occur on September 23rd in Tucson. Tom also discussed the potential nexus of this effort with the work of the recently convened Climate Change Advisory Committee of the Governors office. That group is working on developing a carbon emissions inventory and will provide recommendations based on that inventory for reducing greenhouse gasses. Tom is serving on the Forestry and Agriculture Subcommittee of that Committee, which will be addressing the

carbon inventory as it relates to wildland vegetation, fire regimes, and carbon budgets. This is one area where the preliminary inventory prepared by consultants staffing the working group will need significant work.

e. Restoration Economy Subcommittee

Marty reported that the preponderance of activity related to implementing the Forest Health and Safety Legislation. Marty also reported that, due to a career change and corresponding move to New Mexico, this would be his last FHAC meeting. On behalf of both Councils and Co Chairs, Taylor and other members thanked Marty for his excellent service to both the FHAC and FHOC, and noted that his dedication to collaboration and building agreement has been central to increasing collaboration and decreasing animosity surrounding forest and fire management issues in Arizona in recent years. Lori reiterated these thanks on behalf of the Governors office, and people had cake. Let the minutes reflect that Marty will be missed.

f. Arizona Restoration Strategy Subcommittee

Taylor McKinnon reported on behalf of Ethan Aumack and Wally Covington that edits to the draft outline were ongoing, and directed people to Ethan or Wally who wish to work on that outline or otherwise become engaged in that subcommittee's activities.

4) Status of Implementing the Arizona Forest Health and Safety Act

Patty Duff, from the Department of Commerce, gave a thorough overview of progress to-date implementing the Arizona Forest Health and Safety Act. Department of Commerce has developed forms and procedures for determining eligible businesses and for those businesses to apply for and receive incentives set forth in the legislation. The Department of Commerce is embarking on a series of workshops throughout the state to educate potentially eligible businesses and other interested parties about the program. Those workshops will take place throughout the fall. Taylor thanked Patty and her staff for all of their hard work, particularly in ironing out specifics of implementation that were not addressed in the legislation itself.

5) Update on Roadless Area Conservation issues

Lori Faeth reported that the Governors office plans to submit a petition for roadless area conservation in Arizona. Arizona Game and Fish is conducting an assessment of the 2001 RACR roadless areas to inform petition development. Lori will provide additional updates as to the Councils as this process develops.

6) Cooperative Conservation Conference in St. Louis

Todd Schuke and Steve Campbell briefly reported on their attendance to this conference. Over 30 projects were presented, including the White Mountains Stewardship Contract, which both Todd and Steve spoke to. They reported that this project, and the Arizona collaboration in general, was well received.

7) Other Business

Steve Campbell suggested the idea of having a cooperative conservation conference in Arizona. He will keep council members abreast of the development of this effort. Taylor reported on behalf of Diane Vosick and Wally Covington that the legislation establishing three Ecological Restoration Institutes (in Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado) requires that those institutes solicit from restoration practitioners and other restoration experts information needs to guide the institutes information development agenda. The October and November meetings will introduce this legislation to the Councils and describe and implement a process for soliciting that information from Council members. Taylor urged Council members to be thinking about their organizations' information needs priorities in anticipation of this process. On that note, Taylor also requested that Council members be thinking about policy recommendation priorities for their organizations, since the FHOC will be developing the 2006 policy recommendations to the Governors office this fall.

- 8) Future meeting dates and locations
 - a. October 13th, Phoenix, building TBA
- 9) Call to the Public-
- 10) The meeting was adjourned at 3:20pm

Dated this 8th day of September - Governor's Forest Health Councils

CO-CHAIRS

Beth Zimmerman – Arizona Department of Emergency Management
Taylor McKinnon – Grand Canyon Trust

<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>